

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4134
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17505

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT YS FR
SUBJ: QUAI IMPRESSIONS OF SOUTH YEMEN

1. QUAI ARABIAN PENINSULA DESK OFFICER (BELLIVIER),
WHO ACCOMPANIED SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TAITTINGER
ON HIS MAY 28-30 VISIT TO ADEN, TOLD US JUNE 14 THAT THE
FRENCH WERE STRUCK BY THE CONTINUING EFFECTS OF CASTRO'S
VISIT ON YEMEN AND BY THE DIFFICULTIES THE SAUDIS ARE
EXPERIENCING IN THEIR EFFORTS TO WEAN THE PDRY
AWAY FROM ITS EAST EUROPEAN ORIENTATION. ADEN HAS NOT
MOVED FAR TOWARD LIBERALIZATION AND MODERATION AND STILL
TILTS TOWARD THE SOVIETS, HE SAID.

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2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH TAITTINGER, THE PRESIDENT AND
FOREIGN MINISTER WERE FAVORABLE TO ETHIOPIAN THESES,
PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE INVIOABILITY OF BORDERS.
ETHIOPIA WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING THE "VICTIM OF FOREIGN
PLOTS."

3. WHILE BACKING AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI, THE YEMENITES

MADE CLEAR THEIR OPPOSITION NOT ONLY TO A FRENCH BASE THERE, BUT TO ANY FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE BEYOND A SMALL NUMBER OF ADVISERS FOR A FEW MONTHS' TRAINING. AS FOR THE TAIZ SUMMIT, THEY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT OTHER RIPARIAN STATES (ETHIOPIA, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND DJIBOUTI, BUT NO MENTION OF JORDAN OR, OF COURSE, ISRAEL) SHOULD JOIN THE ORIGINAL FOUR IN ANY FUTURE DISCUSSION OF THE RED SEA.

4. THE YEMENITES PORTRAYED THEMSELVES AS POOR AND VICTIMS OF HISTORY, OIL PRICE INCREASES, AND INFLATION. DESPITE THEIR SERIOUS BORDER DIFFERENCES WITH SAUDI ARABIA, THE YEMENITES SAID THAT THEY LIKE THE SAUDIS AND WANT THEIR AID, BUT WITHOUT STRINGS.

5. ON OMAN, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE TWO PEOPLES HAD BEEN FRIENDS FOR CENTURIES. THERE IS NO BORDER PROBLEM BETWEEN THEM, BUT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES EXIST. THE PDY WILL NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH OMAN ONLY WHEN THE LAST IRANIAN SOLDIER HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY, HE ASSERTED. BELLIVIER REMARKED THAT GIVEN THE SECRET ACCORD BETWEEN MUSCAT AND TEHRAN, NORMALIZATION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS UNLIKELY.

6. BILATERAL ECONOMIC CONVERSATION CENTERED ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHING, AND THE FRENCH AGREED TO INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THESE FIELDS. BELLIVIER SAID THAT THE YEMENITES SHOWED NO SIGNS OF INTEREST IN BUYING FRENCH ARMS.

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7. IN SUMMARY, BELLIVIER INDICATED THAT TAITTINGER WAS WELL RECEIVED, THAT THE YEMENITES EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS, INCLUDING THE DESIRE FOR FRENCH ASSISTANCE, VERY FRANKLY, AND THAT THE VISIT FITTED CURRENT FRENCH POLICY OF AN ALL AZIMUTHS APPROACH TO THE ARABS, I.E., A POLICY OF TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE BEST RELATIONS POSSIBLE WITH ALL ARAB STATES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL PERSUASION.

GAMMON

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